

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /063 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1153

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17973

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, PO

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEWS ON PORTUGAL AFM ASSEMBLY

SUMMARY: SENIOR QUAI OFFICIAL DISCUSSED GROWING
FRENCH FEARS OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL WITH SONNEN-
FELDT DURING TALKS CONNECTED WITH SECRETARY'S VISIT
JULY 10. END SUMMARY

1. IN SESSION WITH COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT AND OTHER
SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, QUAI'S DIRECTOR FOR POLIT-
ICAL AFFAIRS DE LABOULAY, SOUGHT US VIEWS OF RECENT
DEVELOPMENTS IN LISBON, PARTICULARLY OUTCOME OF AFM
ASSEMBLY. SONNENFELDT SUMMARIZED EMBASSY LISBON AND DE-
PARTMENT REPORTS OF ASSEMBLY OUTCOME, POINTING OUT THAT
OMINOUS DEVELOPMENTS WERE CONFIRMATION OF USG PESSIMISM
EXPRESSED EARLIER TO MORE OPTIMISTIC EUROPEANS.

2. REPLYING TO LABOULAYE QUERY, SONNENFELDT EXPRESSED
VIEW SOVIETS WERE SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL,
THOUGH CAREFUL TO AVOID OVERT ACTS AND SEEMING TO HURRY
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EVENTS ALONG. HE DOUBTED THAT SOVIETS WOULD BE INCLINED

TO APPLY BRAKES TO CUNHAL. LABOULAYE SAID EARLIER FRENCH
OPTIMISM WAS BASED ON TITO'S INSISTENCE SOME SIX WEEKS
EARLIER THAT SOVIET'S WOULD LIMIT PROGRESS OF PCP IN OR-
DER TO AVOID PROVOKING WEST AND DAMAGING DETENTE.
LABOULAYE SAID FRENCH DOUBTS WERE GROWING RAPIDLY. HE
ADDED THAT NEITHER FRENCH NOR EC-9 HAD AS YET TAKEN ANY
DECISIONS ON AID TO PORTUGAL, AND AGREED TO SONNEFELDT
SUGGESTION THAT IT IMPORTANT TO US TO STAY IN TOUCH.
RUSH

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